(c) the steps taken by the Ministry to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The milk production in the country has not fallen during the last few years, on the contrary the milk production in India has been consistently rising. As per estimates available with Government, the average annual growth rate of production of milk during the last decade is 4.17%.

(c) Government of India has been implementing the following schemes to increase milk production in the country.

(i) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.

(ii) Assistance to States for Fodder Development.

(iii) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases.

(iv) National Project on Rinderpest Eradication.

(v) Integrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP) in Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas.

Construction of storage godowns and cold storages by private parties

2748. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:
SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are extending any further concessions for private parties in construction of storage godowns and cold storages; and

(b) how many tonnes of perishable goods can be stored in cold storages existing in Karnataka and whether Central Government are assisting, in any way, to help the State Government to increase this capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) At present, the Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme through National Horticulture Board (NHB) since 1999-2000 of "Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/ Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticultural Produce". Under this scheme the promoter of the cold storage is eligible for 25% subsidy subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50.00 lakhs per project. Subsidy for

projects in the North-Eastem Region is fixed at higher level of 33.33% subject to a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakhs per project.

(b) The existing cold storage capacity in Karnataka is 55147 MTs which can be used for storage of perishable goods in the State. Under the scheme entitled 'Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/ Modernization of Cold Storage and Storage for Horticulture Produce', no financial assistance is provided directly to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, organizations like State Corporations, Cooperatives, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees, Marketing Boards/ Committees and Agro Industries Corporations which are under the control of State Government are eligible to avail the benefit of the scheme.

MoU between APFEDA and NCTI

2749. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APFEDA) and the National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for exchange of information; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES INTHE MINISTRY OFAGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) As per information made available by Ministry of Commerce, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed. The MoU envisages NCTI Cooperation—*inter alia* towards:

- Optimal utilisation of the strengths of NCTI for export promotional activities of APEDA.
- Analysis and provision of information on global trade statistics including imports/identification of supplier countries, production, demand etc. of APEDA products.
- Providing information of APEDA for further dissemination of electronic trading opportunities of APEDA products to its member exporters.